GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3545
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2002
HIKE IN CABLE CHARGES
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether cable operators in different cities have of late started increasing subscription rates arbitrarily; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to bring down these rates to a reasonable limit?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): The Government has received complaints/representations from subscribers, resident welfare associations and representatives of the people regarding arbitrary and frequent increases in the cable subscription charges. Till now there was no legal provision enabling the Government to regulate subscription charges. The Government, therefore, moved a Bill to amend the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 to provide for mandatory viewing of pay channels through an Addressable System. The Bill has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 15th May, 2002 and by the Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 2002. This legislation is expected to help consumers in making choice regarding channels they wish to see and pay for.